

## AINA NEWS

*Shannon Christoffersen Completes Tenure as 2016–18 PLC Chair*

The 27th Polar Libraries Colloquy (PLC) was held 10–16 June 2018 in Rovaniemi, Finland. At this meeting, Shannon Christoffersen, the Arctic Institute's Manager, Data and Information Services, completed her two-year role as the PLC Chair. For 2018–20, she steps into the role of Past Chair and continues as the PLC Webmaster. The Arctic Institute of North America helped to found the Polar Libraries Colloquy in 1971 and has been a part of the organization since its inception. To learn more about the Polar Libraries Colloquy, please visit its website at <http://polarlibraries.org>.

*Ross Goodwin Honoured by the PLC*

Ross Goodwin, a Fellow of the Arctic Institute of North America and former Manager of ASTIS (the Arctic Science and Information Technology System), was honoured at the 27th Polar Libraries Colloquy held in Rovaniemi, Finland, in June 2018. For his longstanding membership and dedication to this organization, including serving on its Steering Committee as a Member-at-Large for four years and managing the organization's listserv for 19 years, Ross Goodwin was named an Honorary Member. Since the organization's founding in 1971, only nine others have received this honour. The Arctic Institute of North America congratulates Ross on this award.

*The Nunavut Database Expands*

The Nunavut Database ([www.aina.ucalgary.ca/nunavut](http://www.aina.ucalgary.ca/nunavut)) is ASTIS's largest subset database, containing 35 300 records. In addition to descriptions of 25 300 publications, these records include information, derived from Nunavut Research Institute licensing records, about 10 000 research projects licensed by the Government of Nunavut.

*Postdoctoral Fellow Joins AINA*

David Roberts joined AINA in the spring of 2017, working in collaboration with the Institute's Executive Director Dr. Maribeth Murray and Dr. Shawn Marshall of the University of Calgary's Department of Geography. Focusing on a variety of data and environmental modeling projects, he will attempt to recover, synthesize, and map historic scientific data from the Kluane Lake area of Yukon. His goal is to produce a more comprehensive data catalogue of scientific knowledge for use by local communities and visiting researchers. Further, he is helping to establish a new weather station at the Kluane Lake Research Station



*David Roberts with one of his three sons.*

and provide access to its data, as well as developing methods to evaluate and correct high-resolution climate data in topographically complex terrain. David was born and raised in Calgary, Alberta, and completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Calgary before moving to Edmonton to earn his PhD in conservation biology at the University of Alberta. This research focused on the responses of forest species to past and ongoing climate change, which include post-glacial migration rates and further habitat suitability assessments. He subsequently completed a postdoc at the University of Alberta aimed at developing landscape-scale algorithms to assess risks of climate change and later, a postdoc at the Albert-Ludwigs-Universität in Freiburg, Germany, where he developed validation methods for statistical models in ecology. David looks forward to joining the team at AINA and applying his quantitative ecology research background to new scientific questions and challenges.

*Shoreline Change Study Inspires Current Arctic Research*

AINA Postdoctoral fellow Ravi Darwin Sankar and colleagues from Florida State University (USA) have published their assessment of shoreline movement along

segments of Florida's Gulf and Atlantic coasts. The researchers employed a new software tool, "Analyzing Moving Boundaries Using R," which has the capacity to generate a quantitative evaluation of change. They combined historical maps and aerial photographs to present rates of shoreline change over long- and short-term periods. Their results indicated an overall net retreat of the shoreline along the Gulf coast ( $-0.62$  m per year from 1856 to 2015), while the Atlantic coast showed a net advance ( $+0.22$  m per year from 1873 to 2014). Dr. Sankar is currently applying these same methods to Arctic coasts to assess coastal Banks Island and the Hamlet of Paulatuk. His Florida research demonstrates that shorelines are affected by a number of factors and are not consistent along all coastlines in a region. His results for Arctic research should help inform communities on the risks and opportunities they may face with evolving shorelines.

Sankar, R.D., Donoghue, J.F., and Kish, S.A. 2018. Quantifying shoreline movement on both Florida coasts: New software shows intensifying rates of shoreline change. *Estuaries and Coasts* 41:1–21.  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s12237-018-0426-3>

#### *AINA PhD Student Fieldwork*

Kent Spiers, AINA PhD Candidate and Eyes High and SSHRC fellow in the Department of Archeology and Anthropology, recently returned from Pond Inlet, Nunavut, where he was conducting fieldwork. His research explores the experiences of community members with research based on monitoring in their region. His goal is to find out what works and what doesn't work in terms of how community members are engaged with, informed of, and involved in the planning and execution of community-based environmental monitoring programs. With the support of two local research assistants, Ena Muktar and Michael Milton, Kent was able to meet and discuss these experiences with 28 individuals from the community. Some of the



*Kent Spiers*

issues that community members raised with Kent were the lack of funding opportunities open to Inuit communities for conducting their own research, the frequent failure of outside researchers who conduct monitoring programs to consult and engage with communities, and the conflict between Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (or Inuit Traditional Knowledge) and Western science.

Kent is grateful for the generous support of the community of Pond Inlet, especially Shelly Elverum, who introduced him to community members, and Evan Richardson, manager of the Environment and Climate Change Canada research station, with whom he chatted over many cups of tea. At present he is transcribing and analyzing his interviews in order to build a better understanding of the community's perspectives in relation to science, participation, and research ethics. Kent hopes that his research will better inform scientists who intend to initiate community-based monitoring, as well as provide the community with an outline of their concerns and desires in relation to research.